

## Bulletin #1 – Belgium (2 & 3 of November 2010)

---

### **Welcome in Liège...**



*Liège, "Lîdje" in Walloon, "Luik" in Dutch and "Lüttich" in German is a French speaking city of eastern Belgium. Liège is the administrative centre of the province of Liège (there are 10 provinces in Belgium). Liège is also the official economic capital of the Walloon Region. From 972 to 1795, Liège was the capital of the Principality of Liège.*



### **Projects: Grundtvig and EEEADS...**



Grundtvig: practical learning for adults. The Grundtvig programme focuses on the teaching and study needs of learners taking adult education and 'alternative' education courses, as well as the organisations delivering these services. It aims to help develop the adult education sector, as well as enable more people to undertake learning experiences, notably in other European countries.

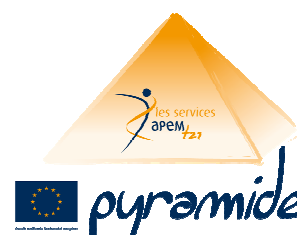


The EEEADS project aims creating an educational material for the employers about employment of adults with Down syndrome. We want to improve an educational set consisting of a booklet and a CD. The target group of the set will be the employers and directors in workplaces.

### **Schedule:**

**Day 1 - November 1<sup>st</sup>:** Arrival of the participants. **Day 2 – November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Venue UPPPH (University of Liège):** Welcome and presentations of partner organizations.// Coffee break.// Presentation of the project by coordinating institution (overview), what we want to do? (Concrete results of the project and who is responsible for each?).// Lunch.// Presentations about the employment of disabled people by each partner (legislation systems on employment of disabled).// Sightseeing.// Dinner.// **Day 3 – November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Venue: La Fermette (Day Center for Adults with Down Syndrome):** Presentation of the Day Centre.// Presentation of the project ESF entitled "Pyramide" aiming the insertion of adults with Down Syndrome into regular employment.// Meeting with employers.// Visit of the snack "Le Relais".// Lunch prepared by disabled personnes.// Task division of the project.// Agenda and places of the meetings.// Coffee break.// Deciding logo and website of the project.// Budget issues and other related issues.// Free evening.

### **The Belgian team...:**



**The Belgian team is :** Jean-Jacques Detraux from the UPPPH of the University of Liège ; Marie Jaspard and Xavier Rainotte of the Insertion Unit of the NPO « Les Services de l’APEM-T21 ».

**UPPPH:** Study of the cognitive emotional development and the psychology of the child, the teenager and the adult with intellectual deficiency and/or with neuro-driving deficiency. Approach diverse syndromes (X-Fragile, T21, Williams-Beuren). Analysis of the process of integration of the person in situation of handicap: announcement of the deficiency, the dynamics of the family facing the problem (concept of impact strength, coping, PLOUGHSHARE, bientraitance), analyses of the process of school integration, occupational integration. Study of the representations connected to the handicap and the link with the concepts of self-respect, construction of personal identity... Analysis and evaluation of educational practices in specialized education.

**Services de l’APEM-T21 asbl:** This non profit organisation was created in 1977 by Mrs Annie Krins. APEM-T21 is an association of parents, professionals and persons with a Down syndrome or assimilated genetic disabilities. Since 1977 different services were created in order to accompany and give an appropriate answer to the needs of our disabled population from birth to death... The first created services were: SAP (service d’aide précoce), service accompanying families before the birth of a disabled child and the child from birth to age 6; a social service; a research and dissemination service. In 1982, the day centre “La Fermette” opened and proposed workshops to adults following the Wolfensberger’s philosophy: valuation of the social roles through work activities. In 1991, a second SAP opened in Liège. 1993, our residential service called La Glanée opened in Verviers ; « Club 3,2,1 » in Liège and « L’envolée » in Verviers were born in 1994, those leisure clubs proposed a whole range of activities for disabled persons. Receiving some European funds since 1993, the insertion unit was created in 2002 to manage 2 projects: Pyramide (solo insertion program in ordinary businesses) and Proxi Service (insertion program for teams of 3 or 4 persons for different kind of work for people meeting some difficulties); “Le Relais de la Fermette”, our insertion shop opened in 2003; SAI (service d’aide à l’intégration) is accompanying our population and their family for age 6 to age 21; in 2009, a new project aiming to integrate children with disabilities in regular schools or nurseries; the two last projects from Les Services de l’APEM-T21 are “Inclu...toit” (life in autonomy in the heart of the city) and “La Voile” (analyzing, accompanying and preparing the transition school/after school). Since September 2011, we are building new premises to welcome our elderly and allow them ageing in dignity (the upcoming challenge...).

## **TESTIMONIES**

*By Marie Jaspard...*

The first meeting of the project EEEADS (Employers Education one Employment of Adults with Down syndrome) took place in Belgium from 1st till 3 November 2010.

The foreign partners were able to go to their hotel on November 1st and discover the town of Verviers accompanied by Xavier Rainotte. November 2nd was dedicated to exchanges in a meeting. Whereas November 3rd was largely dedicated to the visit of APEM-T21 services for adults with a Down syndrome ("La Fermette", "La Glanée" and the Insertion Unit). Finally, partners met to plan the work to be realized and date next meetings.

November 2nd, Belgian partner " ULG - Unit of Psychology and Pedagogy of the Person Handicapped (UPPPH) ", represented by Professor Jean-Jacques Detraux, received us in their offices of the Liège University. Mr Detraux was joined by two Belgian representatives of the European project (European Social Fund "FSE-Pyramide", Marie Jaspard and Xavier Rainotte.

We introduce the different delegation during this first meeting. Each one had to say his first name, name and country of origin. Then, with a PPT, we explained the activities of our organizations. Gaby and Dan, come from Austria, presented GROUND and VAMOS located in Markt Allau. Michael, come from Ireland, presented the "COPE Foundation" in Cork. Allin and Ionut, come from Romania, presented us their organization "AREAS" in Suceava. Aptuk from Turkey, presented "Gerzereh". Marie and Xavier presented "Les Services de l'APEM-T21" located in Verviers in Belgium.

Jean-Jacques Detraux explained the functioning of Belgium in the sector of the Handicap and presented the University of Liège as well as his service.

After some talk on the objectives of the project and the methodologies to reach our goals, we met in town, for a city tour as well as a typically Belgian meal.

November 3rd, partners met Down syndrome persons from the day centre "La Fermette" and discovered the various workshops.





Xavier and Marie introduced the Insertion Unit and both European projects: "Pyramide" and "Proxi Services" (small groups of disabled persons accompanied by UIS are going to help particular customers or companies for a one or two days mission).



This ground meeting allowed our partners to understand better the reality of the accompaniment of people with a Down syndrome in Belgium. Next meetings in Austria, Rumania and Turkey will enrich our point of view and exchanges.

For this bulletin : Xavier RAINOTTE

